

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING

BY PHILLIPS B. STREET, SECRETARY

The Thirty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society was held at Stillwater, Oklahoma, from Thursday, April 7, to Sunday, April 10, 1955. It was sponsored by the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College and the Oklahoma Ornithological Society.

There were four sessions devoted to papers and two business meetings. The motion picture, "Sunrise Serenade," was presented on Thursday evening, and the Executive Council met at the same time. Dr. George M. Sutton presented an illustrated talk on Friday evening, "Comments on the Distribution of Arctic Birds with Special Reference to Baffin Island Observations made during the Summer of 1953," and it was followed by a reception given by the sponsoring groups. The Annual Dinner was held in the Student Union Club on Saturday evening, President Burt L. Monroe delivering the address and the Pawnee Indian Dancers providing entertainment.

Early morning field trips were taken to Lake Carl Blackwell and to the prairie country near Pawhuska, where the Prairie Chickens performed as scheduled. The all-day Sunday field trip to the Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge featured a buffalo barbecue luncheon.

## FIRST BUSINESS SESSION

President Monroe called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., Friday, April 8. President Oliver S. Willham, of Oklahoma A. and M. College, welcomed the Society, and President Monroe responded. The minutes of the 35th Annual Meeting were approved as published in *The Wilson Bulletin* for September, 1954.

### Secretary's Report

The secretary, Phillips B. Street, summarized the principal actions taken at the previous evening's Executive Council meeting as follows:

1. Council accepted the invitation of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, the Buffalo Audubon Society and the Buffalo Ornithological Society to hold the 37th Annual Meeting at Buffalo, New York, from Thursday, April 26, to Sunday, April 29, 1956.
2. Dr. Keith L. Dixon was elected editor of *The Wilson Bulletin*.

### Treasurer's Report

The treasurer, Leonard C. Brecher, submitted the following report on the finances of the Society:

#### REPORT OF TREASURER FOR 1954

##### GENERAL FUND

Balance as shown by last report, dated December 31, 1953 .....\$3,120.30

##### RECEIPTS

##### Dues:

Active .....\$3,794.00

Sustaining ..... 1,485.00 \$5,279.00

Subscriptions to *The Wilson Bulletin* ..... 506.25

Sale of back issues & reprints of *Bulletin* ..... 160.55

##### Gifts:

Color Plate Fund .....\$ 5.00

Library Book Fund .....	29.75	
Miscellaneous .....	61.50	96.25
Payments for Foreign Postage .....		6.50
Refund from Registration Fees, Cape May Meeting .....		48.62
Total Receipts .....		\$9,217.47

DISBURSEMENTS

<i>The Wilson Bulletin</i> —Printing and engraving .....	\$3,841.96
<i>The Wilson Bulletin</i> —Mailing and maintenance of mailing list .....	718.49
Editor's Expense—Printing, postage, clerical aid, etc. ....	239.00
Treasurer's Expense—Printing, postage, clerical aid, etc. ....	107.37
Secretary's Expense—Printing, postage for Annual Meeting, etc. ....	139.18
Committee and Other Officers' Expense—Printing and postage .....	54.18
Purchase of Books from Book Fund for Club Library .....	48.50
Purchase of Back Issues of <i>The Wilson Bulletin</i> for future sale ...	5.50
Miscellaneous: State tax, Corp. Fee, box rental, etc. ....	10.15
Louis Agassiz Fuertes Research Grant to William C. Dilger .....	100.00
Worthless Checks charged back by bank .....	8.00
Transfer of Gift to Endowment Fund .....	32.00
Total Disbursements .....	\$5,304.33
Balance on hand in Citizens Fidelity Bank & Trust Company, Louisville, Kentucky, December 31, 1954 .....	\$3,913.14

ENDOWMENT FUND

Balance in Savings Account as shown by last report, dated December 31, 1953, \$1,447.71

Receipts:

Interest on Investments and Dividends .....	\$ 342.95
Transfer of Gift from General Fund .....	32.00
Interest on Savings Account .....	20.23
Life Membership payments .....	850.00
Total Receipts .....	\$2,692.89

Disbursements:

State Tax on Bank Deposits .....	\$ 2.27
Purchase 1 share Mass. Invest. Trust Stock .....	19.28
Purchase 5 shares Mass. Invest. Trust Stock .....	132.00
Purchase 30 shares Firemans Fund Ins. Stock .....	2,085.00
Total Disbursements .....	\$2,238.55

Balance in Savings Account, Citizens Fidelity Bank & Trust Company,  
Louisville, Kentucky, December 31, 1954 .....

\$ 454.34

Securities owned\*

U.S. Postal Savings Coupon Bonds, dated July 1, 1935 .....	\$ 780.00
U.S. Savings Bonds, Series "G," dated September 1, 1943 (maturity value \$1,000.00) .....	986.00
U.S. Savings Bonds, Series "G," dated December 20, 1944 (maturity value \$1,500.00) .....	1,468.50
U.S. Savings Bonds, Series "G," dated June 1, 1945 (maturity value \$500.00) .....	488.00
U.S. Savings Bonds, Series "G," dated July 1, 1945 (maturity value \$900.00) .....	878.40
U.S. Savings Bonds, Series "G," dated October 1, 1945 (maturity value \$1,400.00) .....	1,362.20

U.S. Savings Bonds, Series "F," dated February 1, 1947 (maturity value \$2,000.00) .....	1,722.00
U.S. Savings Bonds, Series "F," dated April 1, 1948 (maturity value \$2,000.00) .....	1,670.00
U.S. Savings Bonds, Series "F," dated October 1, 1948 (maturity value \$1,450.00) .....	1,191.90
U.S. Savings Bonds, Series "F," dated April 1, 1950 (maturity value \$1,000.00) .....	786.00
Total Value of Government Bonds .....	\$11,333.00
Massachusetts Investors Trust (122 shares at \$27.99) .....	3,414.78
Firemans Fund Insurance (30 shares at \$72.00) .....	2,160.00
Total Securities Owned .....	\$16,907.78
Total in Endowment Fund,** December 31, 1954 .....	\$17,362.12

\*Bonds carried at redeemable value December 31, 1954  
(appreciation during the year, \$218.06)  
Stocks carried at closing prices December 31, 1954  
(appreciation during the year, \$931.50)

**\*\*In Reserve:**

Louis Agassiz Fuertes Research Fund (special gifts) ..\$	425.00
S. Morris Pell Fund (special gift) .....	75.00

Respectfully submitted,  
/s/LEONARD C. BRECHER,  
*Treasurer.*

*Membership Committee*

Ralph M. Edeburn, chairman, reported that the names of 93 prospective members enrolled since the 1954 meeting were posted for the inspection of members and to be elected by vote at the final business session. On December 31, 1954, the Society had 98 life, 271 sustaining and 1249 active members, a total of 1618. Since January 1, 1955, 61 new members have been added, making a total of 1679 as of April 8, 1955. The addition of 11 new life members since January 1, 1955, is the outstanding membership achievement since the 1954 meeting. There were 154 institutional subscriptions to *The Wilson Bulletin* as of the close of 1954. The membership has been stable during the past several years.

*Research Grant Committee*

Kenneth C. Parkes, chairman, reported by letter that his committee, consisting of Brina Kessel, John Davis and himself, felt that the early date of the Stillwater meeting would not permit sufficient time for applications to be received and judged in view of the late publication date of the December *Bulletin* with its call for applications. Accordingly, an April 20 deadline was set. Nine applications had been received to date. (The winner subsequently selected was Robert G. Wolk, graduate student at Cornell University, who has been awarded a Louis Agassiz Fuertes Research Grant of \$100 as an aid to his study, "Analysis of Reproductive Behavior in the Black Skimmer.")

*Library Committee*

George J. Wallace, chairman, reported that accessions to the library at Ann Arbor since last year's report totalled 1220 items, comprised of 51 books, 513 reprints, 601 magazines and 55 pamphlets. The excellent showing in reprints and magazines is largely due to an unusually large donation by Fred M. Packard. Donations were made

by 63 persons or institutions. Many persons have contributed substantially to this rapidly growing collection of library material, and some appear to have become regular contributors over the years, a habit of which the committee thoroughly approves. The remarkable growth of the library during the past six years can be visualized from the following tabulation of receipts over this period:

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	Totals
Books .....	61	44	44	36	81	51	317
Reprints .....	1104	278	365	361	465	513	3086
Magazines .....	78	140	78	273	117	601	1287
Pamphlets .....	6	27	34	58	82	55	262
Totals .....	1249	489	521	728	745	1220	4952

The December, 1954, *Wilson Bulletin* carried a second supplementary book list of 49 books received since the previous listing in September, 1953. These two book lists add 92 books to those given in the complete list published in 1952.

*Conservation Committee*

Robert A. Pierce, chairman, reported by letter. The committee felt it important that the Society should not as an organization be diverted from its primary purpose, namely, the promotion of the study and the advance of the science of ornithology, by becoming too deeply involved in local issues better left to state and federal conservation groups, to which groups many of our members belong. Other members are engaged in professions which enable them to teach conservation or to encourage conservation in their communities. Thus, the Society is in effect a strong force for conservation through the individuals which comprise it. It was suggested that in controversial matters not purely ornithological in nature the Society might well confine itself to commendation of various organizations for conservation activities in which we, as an organization, are especially interested, and, too, that our members might well be encouraged to become active in conservation groups so that by working through these organizations we can guide their programs, as well as influence public thinking, along the lines in which we are interested.

The committee brought two matters to the attention of the Society which they felt merited thought: (1) the present program being carried out, through the Fish and Wildlife Service and various state agencies, regarding the introduction of exotic game birds, and (2) the present status of waterfowl management in the United States. As to the introduction of exotics, it was felt that the program presents certain dangers, especially with respect to the introduction of disease, of hybridization with other species already present, and of ecological maladaptation, including the crowding out of native species. With respect to waterfowl management, several changes have taken place during the last few years about which the membership should be informed, and the increase in hunters together with continued decreases in habitat may necessitate other more basic changes in the future. These are both involved issues which will be solved ultimately by the various conservation organizations concerned. It is felt, however, that the membership should be aware of the problems, the merits of existing policies and future programs, and it is planned to discuss these problems through reports in the *Bulletin*.

At the conclusion of the reading of the report, Margaret M. Nice urged those in attendance to protest the Echo Park Dam in Dinosaur National Monument, and Dr. George M. Sutton expressed similar concern over the threatened encroachment by the U.S. Army in the Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge in Oklahoma.

*Temporary Committees*

The following temporary committees were appointed:

*Auditing Committee*

Harvey B. Lovell, Chairman  
Mrs. Frederick W. Stamm  
S. Charles Thacher

*Resolutions Committee*

Harvey I. Fisher, Chairman  
Albert F. Ganier  
Jane S. Mengel

*Nominating Committee*

Maurice Graham Brooks, Chairman  
Aaron M. Bagg  
George H. Lowery, Jr.

## SECOND BUSINESS SESSION

The final business session was called to order at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, April 9.

The applicants for membership, whose names were posted, were elected to membership.

*Report of the Auditing Committee*

The committee's report, read by Mrs. Stamm, found the treasurer's books in order. Mr. Brecher, the retiring treasurer, was commended highly for his able and faithful performance of this exacting and time-consuming position.

*Report of the Resolutions Committee*

BE IT RESOLVED that the Wilson Ornithological Club express its deep appreciation to the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College and to the Oklahoma Ornithological Society for their warm hospitality and to the Local Committee on Arrangements for its effectiveness in planning this splendid meeting. It is not often that our Club is privileged to meet in such handsome quarters and in such an interesting area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wilson Ornithological Club extend its sincere thanks and appreciation to our officers for their wholehearted work and enthusiasm in conducting the affairs of the Club during the past year, and especially to our retiring officers—Harrison B. Tordoff, for maintaining the high quality of *The Wilson Bulletin* during his tenure as editor; Leonard C. Brecher, treasurer, for so faithfully and successfully handling the finances of the club during the last four years; and Harold F. Mayfield, first vice-president, who is resigning because of the pressure of other ornithological duties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wilson Ornithological Club express its thanks to the following retiring committee chairmen for their faithful services in the execution of those committee duties: Ralph M. Edeburn, Membership Committee; George J. Wallace, Library Committee; William H. Marshall, Conservation Committee; and to Joseph C. Howell, the retiring member of the Executive Council.

*Amendment to the Constitution*

The Amendment to the Constitution revising Article 1, Section 1, to read: "The organization shall be known as the Wilson Ornithological Society" was unanimously passed. The change in name becomes effective upon approval by the State of Illinois, our state of incorporation.

*Election of Officers*

The Nominating Committee proposed the following officers for the coming year: President, Burt L. Monroe; First Vice-President, John T. Emlen; Second Vice-President, Lawrence H. Walkinshaw; Secretary, Phillips B. Street; Treasurer, Ralph M. Edeburn; Elective members of the Executive Council, A. W. Schorger (term expires 1956), Harvey I. Fisher (term expires 1957), and Leonard C. Brecher (term expires 1958).

The report of the committee being accepted, and there being no nominations from the floor, the secretary was instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for these nominees.

PAPERS SESSIONS

*Friday, April 8*

- H. I. Featherly, Oklahoma A. and M. College, *Natural Scenes in Oklahoma*, slides.  
A. Marguerite Baumgartner, Stillwater, Oklahoma, *Nesting Birds of an Army Camp "Gone Native,"* slides.  
Frederick M. Baumgartner, Oklahoma A. and M. College, *Bird Life of the Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge*.  
William R. Heard, Oklahoma A. and M. College, *Food Habits of Cave and Cliff Dwelling Owls in Northwestern Oklahoma*, slides.  
Arnold J. Petersen, St. Olaf College, *Reproductive Physiology of the Female Bank Swallow*, slides.  
Jere Hodshire, Wyandotte High School Science Field Club, *Evening Flights of Wintering Ducks at Wyandotte County Lake, Wyandotte County, Kansas*.  
Keith L. Dixon, A. and M. College of Texas, *A Six-year Record of Plain Titmouse Territories*, slides.  
Harvey I. Fisher, University of Illinois, *Landing and Take-off Forces in the Pigeon*, slides.  
George J. Wallace, Michigan State College, *Problems Involved in Ornithological Text-book Writing*.  
Margaret M. Nice, Chicago, Illinois, *Some Comparisons Between Development of Birds and Mammals*.  
Lawrence H. Walkinshaw, Battle Creek, Michigan, and Dale A. Zimmerman, University of Michigan, *The Spread of Brewer's Blackbird in Eastern North America*, slides.  
Brooke Meanley, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, *Blackbirds in the Arkansas Rice Fields*.  
Carl D. Riggs, University of Oklahoma, *Water Birds of Lake Texoma, Texas and Oklahoma*, slides.

*Saturday, April 9*

- John C. Johnson, Jr., University of Oklahoma, *Observation on Winter Blackbird Roosts in Central Oklahoma*, slides.  
Aretas A. Saunders, Canaan, Connecticut, *A Comparison of the Songs of Three Vireos*.  
Donald J. Borror and Carl R. Reese, Ohio State University, *The Accuracy of Mockingbird Imitations* (presented on tape), slides.  
Frederick M. Helleiner, Acme, Alberta, *Bird Observations in the Peace River Region of Alberta, 1953-1954*.  
Josselyn Van Tyne, University of Michigan, *An Expedition to Northern Baffin*, slides.  
Harriet B. Woolfenden, Detroit Audubon Society, *The "How" of the Detroit Audubon's Annual Bird Survey*, slides.  
John F. Wanamaker, The Principia College of Liberal Arts, *Unusual Nesting Observations of the Eastern Cardinal*, slides.  
Rosalie Edge, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association, *Progress of Hawk Protection*, (read by title).



- Lovie M. Whitaker, Norman, Oklahoma, *Some Observations on Anting*.  
 Robert J. Newman, Louisiana State University, *Synthetic Bird Counts—a Means of Studying Observational Variance*, slides.  
 Johnson A. Neff, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, *Albatrosses and Airplanes on Midway*, slides.  
 John William Hardy, University of Kansas, *Are the Thick-billed Parrot and the Maroon-fronted Parrot Really Separate Species?*  
 Robert W. Mitchell, Texas Technological College, *The Golden Eagle in West Texas*, motion pictures.

## ATTENDANCE

Members and guests in attendance at the meeting included 169 registrants and a total probable attendance approximating 200. Twenty-three states and the Province of Alberta were represented.

- From **Arkansas**: 3—*Fort Smith*, Mrs. M. J. Armstrong, Ruth Armstrong; *Stuttgart*, Brooke Meanley.  
 From **Colorado**: 1—*Denver*, Johnson A. Neff.  
 From **Connecticut**: 2—*Canaan*, Aretas A. Saunders; *West Hartford*, E. Alexander Bergstrom.  
 From **Illinois**: 16—*Blue Island*, Karl E. Bartel; *Chicago*, Mrs. Amy G. Baldwin, Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Nice, Millicent Stebbins; *Elsah*, Norwood Hazard, David McBane, Edwin Poole, Mac Stitt, John F. Wanamaker; *Quincy*, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Sorrill, Steven Sorrill; *Urbana*, Harvey I. Fisher, Fred Fisher, William B. Robertson.  
 From **Indiana**: 7—*Connersville*, Edna Banta; *Hanover*, J. Dan Webster; *Indianapolis*, Mildred F. Campbell, Mrs. S. G. Campbell; *Lafayette*, Mr. and Mrs. Albert G. Guy; *Newcastle*, Mary Rankin.  
 From **Kansas**: 22—*Baldwin*, Mr. and Mrs. Ivan L. Boyd; *Kansas City*, Wallace Good, Jere Hodshire and 11 members of the Wyandotte High School Science Field Club, Ben King; *Lawrence*, John William Hardy, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mengel, Harrison B. Tordoff, S. G. Van Hoose; *Manhattan*, Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Beals.  
 From **Kentucky**: 7—*Anchorage*, Mr. and Mrs. Burt L. Monroe, Burt L. Monroe, Jr.; *Louisville*, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard C. Brecher, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Stamm.  
 From **Louisiana**: 2—*Baton Rouge*, Robert J. Newman; *Shreveport*, Horace H. Jeter.  
 From **Maryland**: 2—*Towson*, Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Cole.  
 From **Michigan**: 13—*Ann Arbor*, Mrs. R. M. Branch, Mrs. Reuben L. Kahn, Mrs. Bradley M. Patten, Josselyn Van Tyne, Mr. and Mrs. John E. Willoughby, Anne and Alden Willoughby; *Battle Creek*, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence H. Walkinshaw; *Dearborn*, Mrs. Harriet B. Woolfenden; *East Lansing*, George J. Wallace; *Marquette*, Mrs. Mary Spear Ross.  
 From **Minnesota**: 4—*Minneapolis*, John G. Erickson, Scott Searles; *Northfield*, Arnold J. Petersen; *Owatonna*, Mrs. Harson A. Northrop.  
 From **Missouri**: 2—*Webster Groves*, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Wagner.  
 From **Nebraska**: 4—*North Platte*, Doris Gates, Mrs. Glen Viehmeyer; *Wisner*, Mr. and Mrs. John Lueshen.  
 From **New Jersey**: 1—*Tenafly*, Mrs. Betty Carnes.  
 From **New York**: 1—*Buffalo*, Fred T. Hall.  
 From **Ohio**: 7—*Cleveland*, Vera Carrothers, Adele Gaede, Mildred Stewart, Gene Wachtel, Joel Wachtel; *Utica*, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Wagner.  
 From **Oklahoma**: 55—*Arcadia*, Bess Smith; *Locust Grove*, Lea Davis; *Muskogee*, Forrest Bebb, Maurice Bebb, J. L. Norman, Mr. and Mrs. Vaud A. Travis; *Norman*,

Charles C. Carpenter, John C. Johnson, Jr., Carl D. Riggs, George M. Sutton, Mrs. Lovie M. Whitaker, Johnny Wiens, Ruth Updegraff; *Oklahoma City*, John Baxter, A. E. Borell, Gladys L. Burnham, Wallace Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Martin, Sam Moore, Allan J. Stanley, Eliot J. Stanley; *Ponca City*, Helen Bangs, Mrs. Delia Castor, Mr. and Mrs. Joe C. Creager, C. F. Franklin, William O. Ney, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Pieratt; *Skiatook*, Helen Rogers; *Stillwater*, Mrs. James H. Arrington, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick M. Baumgartner, Milton D. Baumgartner, Mrs. William C. Fawcett, Mr. and Mrs. Colly Hitt, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Mendenhall, Mr. and Mrs. Ford Mercer, Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Smith, Mrs. Grady Thompson; *Tahlequah*, A. F. Bennett; *Tulsa*, Mrs. Roy L. Ginter, Mable L. Hagan, Mr. and Mrs. Orrin W. Letson, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Reynolds, John Tomer; *Wakita*, Mrs. Glen Stuart.

From **Pennsylvania**: 2—*Chester Springs*, Phillips B. Street; *Narberth*, Philip A. Livingston.

From **South Dakota**: 5—*Sioux Falls*, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Chapman; Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Findley, Herbert Krause.

From **Tennessee**: 3—*Nashville*, Albert F. Ganier; *Knoxville*, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Howell.

From **Texas**: 8—*College Station*, Mr. and Mrs. Keith L. Dixon, Terrell Hamilton; *Commerce*, Mrs. Mike O'Neil; *Edinburgh*, Pauline James; *Lubbock*, Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Mitchell; *Midland*, Nance G. Creager.

From **West Virginia**: 3—*Huntington*, Ralph M. Edeburn; *Morgantown*, George A. Hall, Earl N. McCue.

From **Wisconsin**: 1—*West Bend*, Marvin E. Vore.

From **Alberta, Canada**: 1—*Acme*, Frederick M. Helleiner.

### THE WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY

The following gifts have been recently received. From:

William H. Burt—5 reprints	Purdue University Forestry Department—
Donald E. Burton—1 magazine	1 book, 4 pamphlets
G. Reeves Butchart—1 book	Alexander F. Skutch—1 reprint
H. F. Chapman—19 magazines	Sociedad de Ciencias Naturales La Salle—
Sigfrid Durango—1 book	4 bulletins
W. W. H. Gunn—1 phonograph record	Robert W. Storer—10 reprints
Karl W. Haller—4 bulletins, 13 books, 2 reprints	Josselyn Van Tyne—10 reprints
F. Haverschmidt—2 reprints	Olive P. Wetherbee—2 reprints
Philip S. Humphrey—1 magazine	Nixon Wilson—2 bulletins
Leon Kelso—1 pamphlet	Henry L. Yeagley—2 reprints
R. Lehrman—9 magazines	Dale A. Zimmerman—1 reprint